

Message Text

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47

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P 131705Z NOV 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 269067

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, IT

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL: SENATOR THOMAS F. EAGLETON

1. DEPARTMENT INFORMED EMBASSY IN SEPARATE MESSAGE OF
SENATOR EAGLETON'S TRAVEL TO ITALY IN LATE DECEMBER.
DURING CONVERSATION WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICER NOV. 12, THE
SENATOR INDICATED THAT HE PLANNED TO DO SOME BUSINESS WHILE
IN ROME AND WHILE THERE HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH LEADING
ITALIAN POLITICAL FIGURES, INCLUDING BERLINGUER AND
UPCOMING DC AND SOCIALIST LEADERS.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT A CALL BY A LEADING
US POLITICAL FIGURE ON BERLINGUER WOULD BE SUBJECT TO
GROSS MISINTERPRETATION IN ITALY AND ELSEWHERE AS TO US
ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. THE SENATOR
SAID THAT HE HAD NO WISH "TO MAKE ANY WAVES" AND THAT HE
WOULD ABIDE BY DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR VOLPE'S ADVICE
IN THIS MATTER. AS FOR POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS WITH DC
AND SOCIALIST LEADERS, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT
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WISH TO MEET WITH FORLANI, IN HIS PARTY CAPACITY, AND

PERHAPS WITH CRAXI OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO SUGGEST OTHERS IN ADDITION TO OR INSTEAD OF THESE. EAGLETON STRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN UP AND COMING POLITICIANS.

3. AS FOR TIMING, THE SENATOR SAID THAT HE WOULD BE ARRIVING IN ROME IN THE LATE MORNING OR EARLY AFTERNOON OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS EITHER THAT AFTERNOON OR ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23. DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE SENATOR THAT THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD IN ITALY WAS A DIFFICULT ONE IN WHICH TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS, BUT THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

4. EAGLETON EXPRESSED LIVELY INTEREST IN THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST WE WILL PROVIDE HIM WITH SOME BACKGROUND MATERIALS AS WELL AS A BRIEFING ON ITALY.

5. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH ITS VIEWS CONCERNING THE FEASIBILITY OF THE TIMING OF THE APPOINTMENTS AS WELL AS ANY SUGGESTIONS REGARDING PEOPLE HE SHOULD SEE. KISSINGER

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